Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It will be considered after the three months are over.

Finger-print system—Registration Department.

500. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) when the finger print system was introduced in the Cochin Registration Department;

(b) whether the Superintendent of Registration issued circulars to the District Registrars inquiring of the doubts they had in the practical working of the system ;

(c) whether the Superintendent of Registration was sent by Government to Calicut to study the working of the system; if so, when;

(d) what is the expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with (c);

(e) has the benefit of the studies of the Superintendent in this direction been imparted in any way to the various District Registrars ; if not, why ; if communicated when and how?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(a) On 1—4—1107.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The Superintendent proceeded to Calicut on 27—4—1107.

(d) Superintendent Rs. 40—1—0. Peon who accompanied the Superintendent Rs. 4—2—0.

(e) Yes. Detailed instructions were given to all Registrars in a circular dated 13—6—1107 and personal instructions also to some of them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—(e) Did the Superintendent of Registration go on circuit to any District Registry Office for the purpose of giving personal instruction?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—I want notice.

Closing of shops, hotels, &c.

501. Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they issued orders to close all shops including public hotels in the State for 3 days following the sad demise of His Highness the Ex-Maharaja ;

(b) if so, under what regulation or rules they have done so;

(c) whether such orders used to be issued in connection with the demises of important members of the Royal Family;

(d) whether they are not aware that the Police enforced the closing of the shops on all such occasions ;

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(e) whether they are aware of the great hardship, loss and suffering these enforced Hartals are causing to merchants, especially petty dealers and wage earners depending for their bread on their daily sales and work as also to the general public?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) The Revenue authorities were instructed to arrange to close the shops on the occasion.

(b) According to the time honoured custom.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. But it is understood that the Police co-operated with the Revenue authorities in this respect.

(e) The answer is in the negative.

Panchayat Rules.

502. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(i) whether the Panchayat Draft Rules published in the Gazette on 11th Makaram 1106 have come into force;

(ii) if so, from what date;

(iii) if not, the reason for the long delay?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(i) and (ii) No.

(iii) The rules are under consideration.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The draft rules were published on 11th Makaram 1106 and it is more than one year since the rules were published. May I know why there is so much delay in passing orders?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—We have got a lot of critisms about these draft rules. They have to be examined by the Head of the Department concerned and then submitted to the Government with his recommendations. These being very important rules Government are considering in detail all these rules so that an attempt will be made to overhaul tha whole working of the Panchayat system. That is why a little time is taken, to make it as thorough and efficient as possible.

Contagious Shed—Trichur.

503. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they have received a petition from the Public of Trichur, dated 1st of August 1931 to entrust the management of the contagious shed to Dr. Varma, an Honorary Visitor to the shed; if so, will a copy of the reply be placed on the table;

(2) the names of all the Honorary Visitors both official and non-official of the contagious shed with the number of visits made by each during the last two years;

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